



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6224.0 - Labour Force Status and other Characteristics of Families, Australia, Jun 2000

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Summary

Main Features

Note: The Labour Force Survey product set is changing in 2003.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

The data in this publication are based on responses from people included in the June 2000 Labour Force Survey for whom family status could be derived (see paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes for more details).

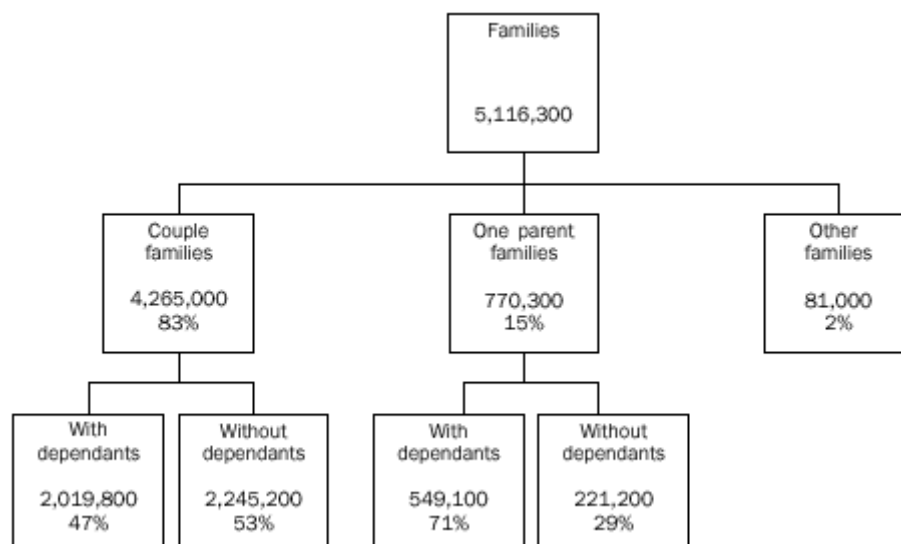
The data cover 14,309,200 people or 94% of the civilian population aged 15 and over. Of these people, 11,780,300 (82%) were members of 5,116,300 families. Of the remaining 2,528,800 people, i.e. those who were not members of a family, 66% lived alone.

As shown in the diagram below, the large majority of families were couple families, slightly less than half of which had dependants present.

One parent families were the next largest group, with more than two thirds having dependants present. Of the 770,300 one parent families, 83% had a female parent.

Of all families, 77% had one or more family members aged 15 and over employed, and 8.0% had one or more members unemployed. Approximately 53% of families had one or more persons aged 15 and over who were not in the labour force, and of these 38% had all members not in the labour force.

AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES

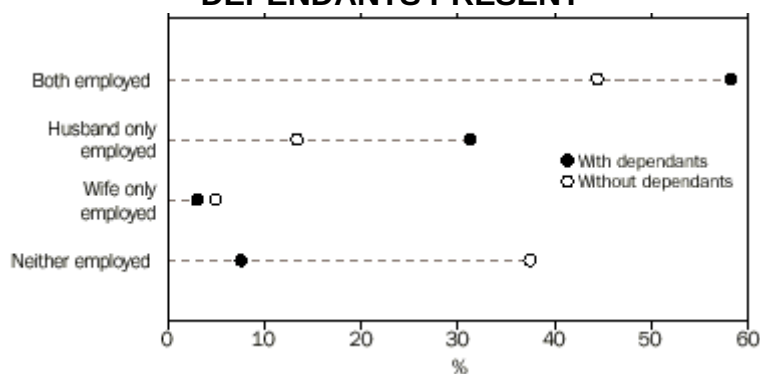


COUPLE FAMILIES

In June 2000, 77% of couple families had at least one partner employed. This proportion has risen from 75% in June 1993. The proportion in June 1990 was 78%.

The proportion of couple families with both partners employed has risen from 49% in June 1990 to 51% in June 2000. The percentage of couple families where one partner was employed and the other was not in the labour force has decreased from 27% in June 1990 to 23% in June 2000.

COUPLE FAMILIES: EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARTNER/S AND WHETHER DEPENDANTS PRESENT



COUPLE FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS PRESENT

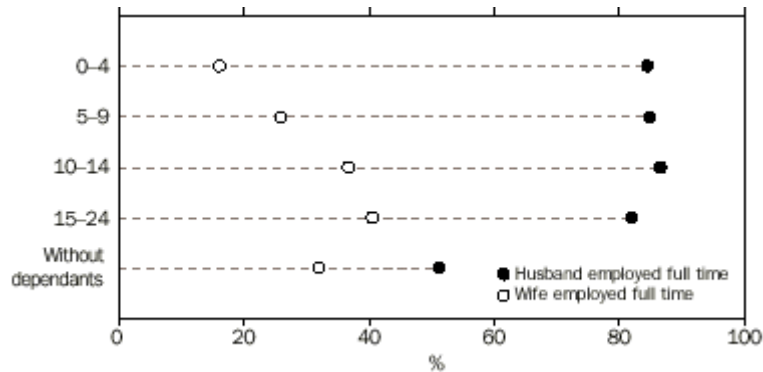
The proportion of couple families with dependants present in which one or both partners were employed was 93% in June 2000, the same as June 1990.

The husband was employed in 89% of all couple families with dependants. This proportion has been steady in recent years. In 95% of these cases, the husband was employed full time.

The wife was employed in 61% of couple families with dependants. The proportion where the wife was employed full time has risen from 20% in the early 1980s to 26% in June 2000. The percentage of wives employed part time was 35% in June 2000. This percentage has been relatively steady at around 34% between June 1995 and June 1999, after rising slowly from around 25% in the early 1980's.

The proportion of wives in full-time employment rose as the age of the youngest dependant increased, as shown in the following graph.

COUPLE FAMILIES: FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENT BY AGE OF YOUNGEST DEPENDANT



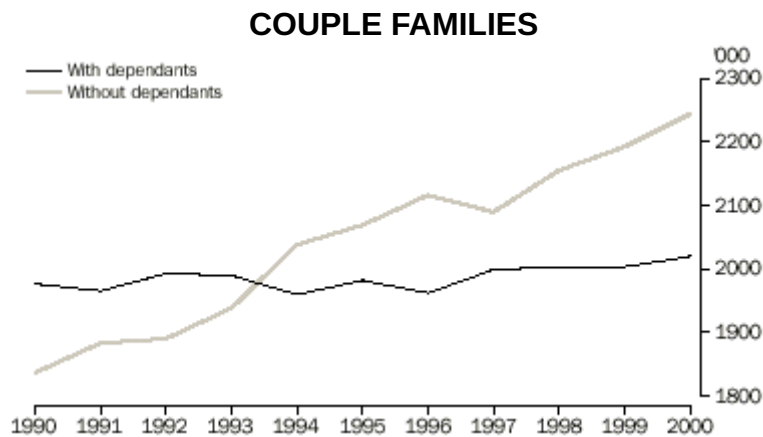
In 2.9% of couple families with dependants present (57,900 families) the husband was unemployed and the wife was either unemployed or not in the labour force. In 41% of these families, the husband had been unemployed for 52 weeks or more. This proportion has fallen from 45% in June 1999.

The percentage of couple families with dependants present with one or both parents unemployed was 6.5% in June 2000. This proportion is unchanged from June 1999, but has fallen 1.2 percentage points since June 1998. The proportion of these families with one or both partners unemployed generally reflects changes in the overall level of unemployment.

The number of children aged 0-14 in couple families where neither parent was employed was 265,700 in June 2000.

COUPLE FAMILIES WITHOUT DEPENDANTS PRESENT

In June 2000, 53% of couple families had no dependants present. The proportion has been consistently greater than 50% since June 1994.



The husband and wife were both aged 45 years or over in 72% of couple families without dependants present in June 2000, a decrease from 73% in 1999. Of these, 49% were families where both partners were not in the labour force.

At least one partner was employed in 63% of couple families without dependants present and 44% had both partners employed. The husband was employed full time in 51% of couple families without dependants and the wife was employed full time in 32%.

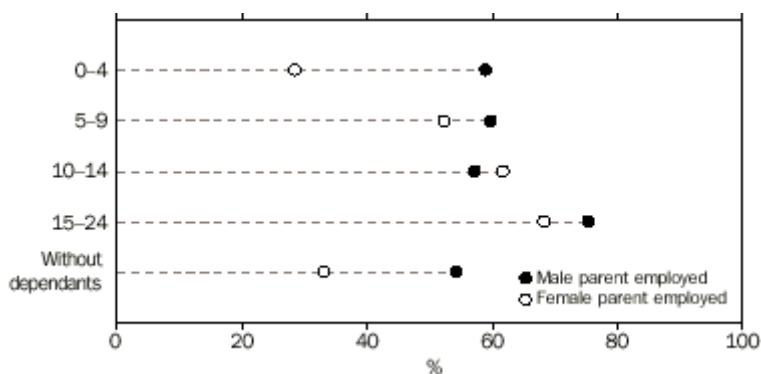
In these families, the proportion in which wives were employed part time has risen from 14% in June 1993 to 17% in June 2000, although it has remained steady over the last 2 years.

Over time, the proportion where at least one partner was unemployed broadly reflects movements in the overall level of unemployment. In June 2000, this proportion was 3.3% for these families (compared with 6.5% for couple families with dependants present).

ONE PARENT FAMILIES

In June 2000, there were 770,300 one parent families, making up 15% of all families. This proportion has increased from 13% in June 1994.

ONE PARENT FAMILIES: EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PARENT BY AGE OF YOUNGEST DEPENDANT



The percentage of one parent families where the parent was not in the labour force decreased to 46% in June 2000 from 51% in June 1994.

The parent was unemployed in 6.3% (48,500) of one parent families. In 13,900 or 29% of these families, the parent had been unemployed for 52 weeks or more.

ONE PARENT FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS PRESENT

In June 2000, there were 549,100 one parent families with dependants present, 71% of all one parent families. Of these, 86% had a female parent. In 58% of one parent families with dependants the youngest child was aged 0-9 years.

The parent was employed in 51% of one parent families with dependants present in June 2000, an increase from 46% in June 1998. Male parents were employed in 64% of these families, compared with 49% of those with a female parent. The proportion with the parent employed generally increased as the age of the youngest dependant increased, with 70% of one parent families whose youngest dependant was aged 15-24 years having an employed parent, compared to 30% whose youngest dependant was aged 0-4.

The percentage of one parent families with dependants present where the parent was unemployed has decreased to 7.5% in June 2000. The proportion peaked at 9.5% in June 1993 before falling to 8.6% and remained relatively steady for the next three years. It rose to

9.4% in June 1998 before falling again.

ONE PARENT FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANTS: PARENT UNEMPLOYED



The number of children aged 0-14 in one parent families where the parent was not employed fell by 9% over the last year, to 411,100 in June 2000. The level, however, remains 17% higher than in June 1993.

PERSONS WHO WERE NOT MEMBERS OF A FAMILY

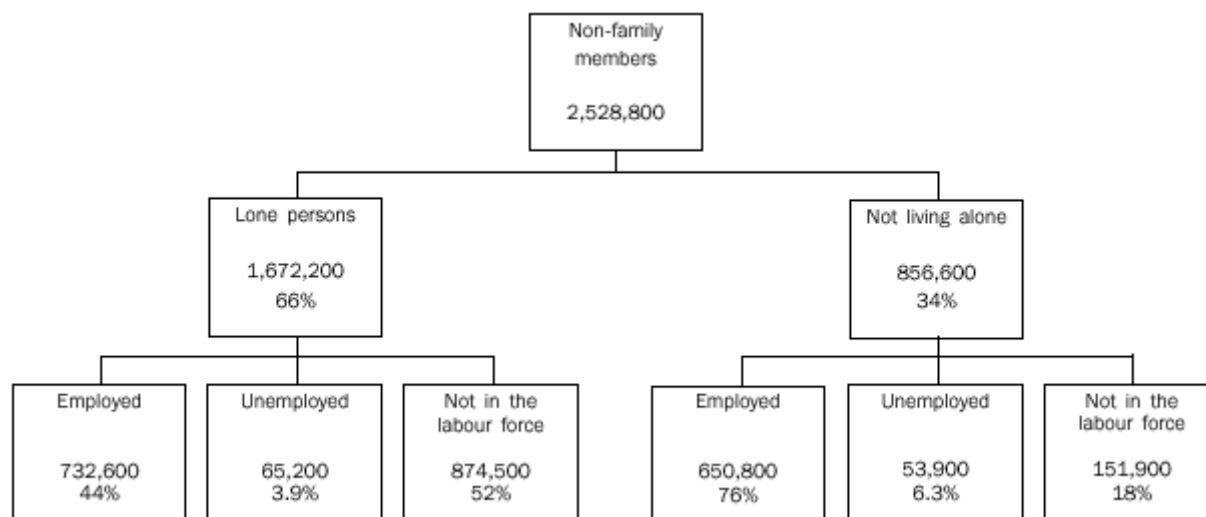
Persons living alone accounted for 12% (1,672,200) of the population where relationship in household was determined in June 2000. Some characteristics of these persons were:

- Approximately 54% were female, two thirds of whom were aged 55 and over.
- Of the males living alone, 38% were aged 25-44, and 39% were aged 55 and over.
- 44% were employed. Some 56% of males living alone were employed and of females living alone, 33% were employed.
- 52% were not in the labour force, of whom 67% were female.

Selected characteristics of the 856,600 persons who were not members of a family and were not living alone (e.g. those in group houses) in June 2000 were:

- Some 57% were males.
- Compared with lone persons, those not living alone had a much younger age profile, with 74% aged younger than 35 (only 19% of lone persons were under 35). Males and females not living alone had similar age distributions.
- A large proportion (76%) were employed, which is higher than the general population.
- 18% were not in the labour force.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF NON-FAMILY MEMBERS



About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Families, classified by family type (e.g. couple families, one-parent families) by family size, number of family members employed and unemployed, labour force status of husband/wife/lone parent, number and age of dependants aged 0-24 years and children aged 0-14 years, age of husband/wife/lone parent.

Data for June 1995 are available as a standard data service (6224.0.40.001).

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

INTRODUCTION

1 In June 2000, details of the labour force status of family members and family composition were derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) component of the Monthly Population Survey.

2 For further information about the LFS, see **Labour Force, Australia** (Cat. no. 6203.0). This publication contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the LFS and supplementary surveys.

3 Tables 1 and 2 summarise the relationship in household of persons aged 15 and over. Tables 3-24 provide information about **couple, one parent and other families** - for example, the number of dependants present, the labour force status of husband, wife or family head. Tables 25-29 contain more detailed estimates of the labour force status of persons aged 15 and over according to their relationship in household, and classified by age, weekly hours worked and other variables.

THE POPULATION SURVEY

4 The population survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (currently about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and a list sample of non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about 0.5% of the usually resident civilian population aged 15 and over in Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by specially trained interviewers. The interviews for this survey were conducted during the two weeks beginning on Monday 12 June 2000. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the reference week).

SCOPE

5 The LFS includes all persons aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

6 From July 1993, Jervis Bay Territory has been excluded from the scope of the survey. Before July 1993, it was included in estimates for the Australian Capital Territory.

COVERAGE

7 In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

8 Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

9 In order to derive estimates of families, the scope of the data is further restricted to usual residents of private dwellings. As a result, all persons living in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions) and persons enumerated as visitors to private dwellings are excluded.

10 Also excluded are households where it was not possible to obtain information relating to

all the usual residents. For example, households which include a member of the permanent defence forces, who is outside the scope of the population survey, are excluded. In addition, households which, at the time of the survey, have one or more of their usual residents away for more than six weeks, and households from which an incomplete or inadequate questionnaire was obtained for any usual resident are excluded. In June 2000, relationship in household and family type were determined for 94% of the usually resident civilian population aged 15 and over.

POPULATION BENCHMARKS

11 LFS estimates of persons employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated in such a way as to add up to the independently estimated distribution of the usually resident civilian population aged 15 and over by age, sex and part of state. This procedure compensates for under-enumeration in the survey, and leads to more reliable estimates. Persons who, at the time of interview, are overseas for more than six weeks but for less than 12 months are included in the independent population statistics (benchmarks) and are thus provided for in the calculation of the estimates. The benchmarks are the latest available estimates at the time the LFS is conducted, but they usually differ from the official population estimates subsequently published in **Australian Demographic Statistics** (Cat. no. 3101.0) because they are projected estimates of population changes.

REVISION OF POPULATION BENCHMARKS

12 Survey estimates are not revised for the usually small amendments of population benchmarks arising from new data on deaths and overseas and internal migration. Revisions are made, however, after each Census of Population and Housing, and when population estimation bases are reviewed. These revisions affect original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The last such revision was made in February 1999 to take account of the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing, which affected all the monthly estimates from January 1995 to January 1999.

13 Population benchmarks used in the estimation of Labour Force Survey data are compiled according to place of usual residence. An explanation of the place of usual residence conceptual basis for population estimates is given in **Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (Cat. no. 3228.0) which is available on this site under Statistical Concepts Library.

CHANGES IN FAMILIES CLASSIFICATIONS

14 The **Relationship in household** and **Family type** classifications were introduced for the Labour Force Survey in the March 1994 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (Cat. no. 6203.0). Most categories in the two classifications remain comparable with categories in the previous classifications. The cases in which there are differences between the two are discussed in the following paragraphs:

- **Relationship in household.** This classification was previously referred to as Family status.
- **Lone parents** (previously referred to as **Sole parents**) now includes parents with non-dependent children (provided those children are without a spouse or children of their own). These **Lone parents without dependants** are shown separately in table 1.

- **Dependent students** (previously **Full-time students aged 15-24**) now comprise sons or daughters (of a couple or a lone parent) aged 15-19 attending school or aged 15-24 attending a tertiary educational institution full time. Other related full-time students, who were also previously classified as **Full-time students aged 15-24** are now included in **Other family persons**.
- **Other family persons** now comprises the previous groups **Other family head**, excluding those now counted as **Lone parents**, other related full-time students classified as **Full-time students aged 15-24** and **Other relative of married couple or family head**.

15 Family type. This classification was previously referred to as **Type of family**. There are three types of families in the new classification, as follows:

- **Couple families** is the term used to describe families previously referred to as **Married-couple families**. Apart from the name change, the new category is otherwise exactly comparable with the old category.
- **One parent families** now includes those families in which there is a lone parent with only non-dependent children present. Such families were previously included in **Other families**.
- **Other families** now excludes those families in which there is a lone parent with only non-dependent children present (see above).

COMPARABILITY OF SERIES

16 Estimates for the June 1999 and later surveys are based on population estimates derived from the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing (adjusted for under-enumeration). Family estimates from 1994 to 1998 were based on 1991 Census results, with those from 1989 to 1993 based on 1986 Census results.

17 Commencing with the June 1989 issue, the category other families was split into one parent families and other families. Therefore these estimates are not strictly comparable with estimates in issues prior to June 1989. However, in June 1998, 98% of other families with dependants were one parent families.

18 Estimates of the number of husbands and wives with dependants in June 1988, as published in selected tables in the June 1989 issue of this publication, are slightly higher than those published in the June 1988 issue. The estimates of the number of husbands and wives without dependants are correspondingly lower. This is due to a small error made at the computer processing stage of the production of family status estimates in the June 1988 issue of this publication.

19 For the July 1982 and previous surveys, office imputation was undertaken to determine the family status of those persons enumerated in private dwellings where family information could not be obtained for all usual residents, and for those persons enumerated in non-private dwellings or as visitors to private dwellings where family information could not be obtained for each member of the family. Due to the increased demand for family data on a consistent and more regular basis, it was decided to change the processing methodology to eliminate office imputation and rely solely on the reported information. Consequently the scope of the July 1983 and subsequent surveys was narrowed to exclude those

respondents for whom it is known that complete family information is difficult to collect (see paragraphs 9 and 10).

20 Surveys from July 1983 onwards are thus not strictly comparable with previous surveys since the persons excluded may have differing family and labour force characteristics to those persons included in the survey. Because of these exclusions the total number of persons with particular family characteristics will also differ between surveys conducted prior to July 1983 and those conducted from July 1983 onwards. Table 1 shows the number of persons excluded from the survey.

21 In the July 1985 and previous surveys, dependants (then described as dependent children) comprised all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15-20 who were full-time students, except those classified as husbands, wives or other family heads. The current definition is given in the Glossary. Tables 24, 25 and 31 of the June 1986 issue of this publication provide an indication of the differences between the student component of the old and new definitions.

22 Since the July 1985 survey was conducted, the definition of employed persons has been extended to include persons who worked without pay between 1 and 14 hours per week in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers). This new definition aligns the Australian labour force concepts with a set of changed international definitions adopted by the International Labour Organisation at the 13th Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1982.

23 Previously, such persons who worked 1-14 hours or who had such a job but were not at work were defined as either unemployed or not in the labour force, depending on whether they were actively looking and available for work. The changes in definition resulted in original (unadjusted) estimates of employment for March 1986 increasing by 34,900 and unemployment decreasing by 5,800.

24 Estimates of the number of families in June 1986 and subsequent years have been calculated differently to those for earlier years. This is due to the adoption of a new weighting procedure where the family weight is determined using an average of all family members responding to the LFS. Previously, the family weight used to publish estimates of the number of families was determined by nomination of a proxy 'head of household' as representative of the family. For these reasons, estimates for the June 1986 and subsequent surveys are not strictly comparable with those for earlier surveys.

25 Although comparisons may generally be made, users should be aware of the above differences.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

26 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. More information is given in the Technical Notes.

NEXT SURVEY

27 The ABS plans to release the next issue of this publication based on information collected in the June 2001 LFS.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

28 Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Australian Social Trends (Cat. no. 4102.0) - issued annually

Career Experience, Australia, November 1998 (Cat. no. 6254.0)

Child Care, Australia, June 1999 (Cat. no. 4402.0)

Children, Australia: A Social Report, 1999 (Cat. no. 4119.0)

Family Characteristics, Australia, April 1997 (Cat. no. 4442.0)

Information Paper: Measuring Employment and Unemployment (Cat. no. 6279.0)

Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey (Cat. no. 6232.0)

Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0) - issued monthly

29 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the **Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia** (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a **Release Advice** (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office or from the ABS Information Service on the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au.

Glossary

Actively looking for work

Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking factory noticeboards or the touchscreens at Centrelink offices; being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

Aggregate hours worked

The total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

Average duration of unemployment

For any group of unemployed persons, the aggregate duration of unemployment divided by the number of persons in the group.

Average family size

For any group of families, the total number of family members divided by the number of families in the group.

Average hours worked

Aggregate hours worked by a group divided by the number of persons in that group.

Couple families

Families in which there are two married persons and these persons are husband and wife. See Marital status.

Dependants

All family members under 15 years of age; family members aged 15-19 attending school or aged 15-24 attending a tertiary educational institution full time (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).

Dependent student

In couple or one parent families, sons or daughters aged 15-19 attending school or aged 15-24 attending a tertiary educational institution full time (except those classified as husbands, wives or lone parents).

Duration of unemployment

The period from the time a person began looking for work or was stood down, to the end of the reference week. Thus the survey measures current (and continuing) periods of unemployment rather than completed spells. For persons who may have begun looking for work while still employed, the duration of unemployment is defined as the period from the time the person last worked full time for two weeks or more to the end of the reference week.

Employed

Persons aged 15 and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or
- were employers, self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Family

Two or more related persons (relationship includes relationships by blood, marriage or

adoption) usually resident in the same household at the time of the survey. A family comprises a married couple or a family head as defined, together with any persons having any of the following relationships to them:

- sons or daughters of any age, if not married and with no children of their own present;
- other relatives if not accompanied by a spouse, sons or daughters, or parents of their own; or
- any children under 15 years of age who do not have a parent present.

Family head

Any person without a spouse present:

- with a son or daughter aged under 15 present; or
- without a son or daughter aged under 15 present, but with a son or daughter aged 15 or over present (provided that the son or daughter has no spouse, son or daughter of his/her own present).

Where a family has no person falling into either of these categories, the family head is generally defined to be the eldest person in the family.

No family head is determined for a couple family.

Full-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Household

A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at different times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but not meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of families and non-family members.

Husband

See **Marital status**.

Labour force

For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed, as defined.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Lone parent

The head of a one parent family.

Lone person

A person who is the sole member of a household.

Main English-speaking countries

The United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, the United States of America, New Zealand and South Africa.

Marital status

Persons are classified as married (husband and wife) if they are reported as being married (including de facto) and their spouse was a usual resident of the household at the time of the survey. The not-married category comprises persons who have never married, or are separated, widowed or divorced, as well as those who, although reported as being married, did not have a spouse who usually lived in the household.

Median duration of unemployment

The duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

Non-dependent child

In couple or one parent families, sons or daughters aged 15 and over, other than those classified as dependant students, husbands, wives or lone parents.

Non-family member

A person who is not related to any other member of the household in which they are living.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily inactive, permanently unable to work, persons in institutions (hospitals, gaols, sanatoriums, etc.), trainee teachers, members of contemplative religious orders, and persons whose only activity during the reference week was jury service or unpaid voluntary work for a charitable organisation.

One parent families

Families in which there is a family head together with at least one son or daughter of his/her own.

Other countries

All countries outside Australia other than the main English-speaking countries defined previously.

Other families

Families which are not couple families or one parent families, as defined. They include families in which there is no parent, for example, a family head living with a brother or sister.

Participation rate

For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

Part-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and:
- were available for work in the reference week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the reference week); or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and would have started in the reference week if the job had been available then; or
- were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week (including the whole of the reference week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed persons who actively looked for full-time work or were to resume a full-time job, from which they had been stood down.

Unemployment rate

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

Wife

See **Marital status**.

